



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 23 2012

OFFICE OF  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

**VIA EMAIL**

Bruce Thompson  
President, American Exploration and Production Council

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of January 19, 2012, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, concerning the Agency's draft report, "Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming." Your letter was referred to me because of the Office of Research and Development's role in conducting the investigation with EPA Region 8 and in arranging the peer review.

In your letter, you emphasized the need for a thorough and high level peer review of the draft report. I share your view that a rigorous and transparent peer review process for this high profile investigation is warranted. To that end, the Agency is following the Office of Management and Budget's requirements for the highest level of peer review with respect to public involvement, transparency, and the establishment of a peer review panel with the appropriate expertise, balance, independence and absence of conflict of interest.

Your letter also urged the EPA to provide sufficient time for the public to review the underlying data generated during the course of the investigation. Specifically, you requested that the EPA release all report-related raw data and extend the public comment period (originally scheduled to end on January 27, 2012) for 90 days following the date of the release of the data. Regarding the release of information to the public, we have made over 750 supporting documents containing detailed technical data available on our public Pavillion website.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, as you may know, the EPA is currently working with the U.S. Geological Survey, in partnership with the State of Wyoming and the Wind River Tribes, to conduct another round of sampling in the Pavillion area. The results of the additional sampling will be publicly available this summer. To ensure that these new data will be available for the peer review process, the public comment period on the draft report has been extended through October 2012, and the peer review panel is expected to be convened in November 2012.

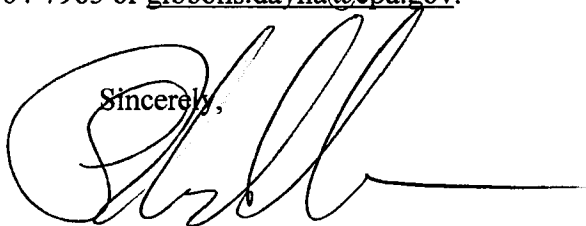
In closing, I would like to assure you that the EPA has used a scientifically sound approach in conducting the investigation in Pavillion. We have operated in a highly transparent manner in sharing information with the public, and we will adhere to a rigorous, transparent peer review of the data, methods, and conclusions of the study.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/wy/pavillion/>

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Dayna Gibbons of our communications staff at 202-564-7983 or [gibbons.dayna@epa.gov](mailto:gibbons.dayna@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lek Kadeli', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lek Kadeli  
Acting Assistant Administrator